

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 179 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 179

Resolved, That immediately upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, any rule of the House to the contrary notwithstanding, to consider in the House a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). The gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. WALDHOLTZ] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST] pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, while adjournment resolutions are ordinarily privileged, a point of order could be raised against the July 4th district work period resolution on grounds it violates section 309 of the Budget Act that requires that the House can not adjourn for more than 3 days in July if it has not completed action on all appropriations; and on grounds it violates section 310 of the Budget Act that requires the same with respect for completing action on a reconciliation bill if one is required by the budget resolution adopted by the Congress.

Despite these strictures in the rules. Mr. Speaker, we are well on our way toward completing our appropriations work in timely manner. Accordingly, in deference to the people whom we serve here, and to our families, to whom we have made commitments over the next week, I believe it is appropriate for the House to now adjourn for the Independence Day district work period.

The special rule before us will simply allow us to consider the July 4th resolution by waiving points of order against it.

The adjournment resolution itself, Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, passed the Senate last night and is now pending at the Speaker's table. This rule provides for the immediate consideration of the adjournment resolution. Under the precedent, it is not subject to debate and will immediately be voted on. I urge adoption of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is one big the dog-ate-my-home-work excuse for not getting much done over the last 6 months.

It doesn't list all the laws and rules Republicans have violated, we would be here all night. Instead it rolls all of the excuses into one sentence that gets House Republicans off the hook in terms of the many and varied promises they have broken this year.

The Congressional Budget Act says the House cannot go on recess for more than 3 days in July until the House has initially considered the appropriations bills. Well, we've only finished 2 out of 13 appropriations bills. Well, we've only finished 2 out of 13 appropriations bills, and those were 2 of the easier ones. The law tells Congress not to take a vacation until its work is done and, with this resolution, Republicans are saying they are above the law.

The reason Congress is not supposed to go on vacation until the appropriations bills have gone through the House is because unless the House is finished by July 4, we will be unable to avoid a continuing resolution on October 1. Because Republicans tied up the House with their contract-cutting taxes for the rich at the expense of school lunches and Medicare, and refusing to attend to the business at hand—the Government may very well shut down at the beginning of the fiscal year.

And that's not all. The Congressional Budget Act also requires Congress to complete action on any necessary reconciliation legislation before going home for the July recess. This year, committees won't report until the end of September.

But not to worry. The Republican majority will just pass this resolution and ignore that law too. I can think of a lot of people who would love to change a law they wanted to break, but for most Americans it doesn't work like that.

And let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle of another rule they are breaking today. I quote:

Whenever the Committee on Rules reports a resolution providing for the consideration of any measure, it shall, to the maximum extent possible, specify the object of any waiver of a point of order against its consideration.

But this resolution doesn't specify the object of any waiver at all. Instead they put in words like "to the maximum extent possible" which creates a loophole big enough to drive a truck through.

For all the reform hoopla on opening day—just 6 months ago—Republicans have trampled their own rules time and time again. And today is no different. Every single day of the week that we are in the Committee of the Whole they waive the new requirement that

committees will not sit during the 5-minute rule. They've waived that rule more than a flag on a 4th of July parade.

The same Republicans who demanded fairness in committee ratios last Congress are now skewing them so badly that even we look good.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, House Republicans are handing themselves a big get-out-of-jail-free card. They are saying "we didn't do the things we were supposed to do but we want to go on vacation anyway."

I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say in response to my colleague from Texas, that while some people may consider it a vacation to go home for 10 days, a number of us consider it a good opportunity to go home and talk to the people whom we are here to serve and many of us have town meetings scheduled.

We have opportunities to go home and talk to the people at home about the work that we are doing here. And much as I consider it a vacation to get out of Washington and return home to Utah, this is not simply for convenience of the Members; it is an opportunity to go home and continue the work that we have to do representing the people of our district.

I will also say, Mr. Speaker, that I think a lot of people recognize at home that having completed a balanced budget resolution for the first time in nearly 30 years is completing a great deal of work. We are well on our way toward accomplishing the work that is required of us in the appropriation process to complete that balanced budget in the time prescribed by law.

Mr. Speaker, we would have had two more bills finished this week, but for some unfortunate decisions by some people to try to slow down the process. Hopefully, we are past that, Mr. Speaker, and that when we come back from work in our districts over the next 10 days, we will have an opportunity to let the process move forward expeditiously as it is intended to.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, is it against the House rules for Members to wear buttons while speaking on the floor?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not wear badges trying to communicate a message while they are addressing the House.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Chairman, I have a further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.